

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 00664 01 OF 02 221003Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 ACDA-12 CU-04 OES-07 AF-10 EB-08
TRSE-00 OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 IO-13 AID-05 /153 W
-----081525 221012Z /11

R 220943Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8059
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VALLETTA 00664

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, MT
SUBJECT: MINTOFF'S ASSESSMENT OF CSCE

1. SUMMARY: MINTOFF BRIEFED PARLIAMENT MARCH 14 ON MALTA'S ROLE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT THE CSCE MEETINGS IN BELGRADE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE SUPERPOWERS WERE NOT ADEQUATELY CONCERNED ABOUT MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY AND CRITICIZED THEM FOR WASTING TIME ON FUTILE BICKERING" ON ISSUES LIKE HUMAN RIGHTS. HE POINTED TO THE AGREEMENT TO MALTA'S PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS AS A REAL ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR MALTA. END SUMMARY

2. PM MINTOFF DISCUSSED MALTA'S ROLE IN THE CSCE SESSIONS AT BELGRADE ON MARCH 14 IN PARLIAMENT. HIS BASIC POINTS, AS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, FOLLOW:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 00664 01 OF 02 221003Z

(A) THE MEDITERRANEAN DOCUMENT WAS COMPLETELY IGNORED AT BELGRADE PARTLY BECAUSE THE SUPERPOWERS LED THE CONFERENCE INTO A "LABYRINTH OF FUTILE BICKERING", PARTICULARLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS WAS A STEP BACKWARD. AS EUROPE WAS FUNDAMENTALLY DIVIDED ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IT WAS NOT REALISTIC OR PRACTICAL TO EXPECT EVERYONE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS "OVER NIGHT" AND BEGIN TO COOPERATE ON SUCH A

CONTROVERSIAL MATTER.

(B) EVEN THOUGH IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL, INCLUDING THE SUPERPOWERS, FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN TO BECOME A "LAKE OF PEACE" THE SUPERPOWERS DID NOT ALLOW MALTA TO MAKE ITSELF HEARD ON THE EVER GROWING TENSIONS IN THE AREA. PERHAPS THIS WAS DONE OUT OF "PIQUE" JUST BECAUSE NO PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. IN ANY CASE, IT WOULD BE USELESS TO DISCUSS MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SUPERPOWERS. CONSEQUENTLY, GIVEN THE ATTITUDE OF THE SUPERPOWERS, MALTA DECIDED TO WITHDRAW ITS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR A PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND TO SETTLE FOR A MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN TO STUDY INITIATIVES IN ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL AREAS AND A COMMITMENT TO DISCUSS MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY AT THE NEXT CSCE MEETING IN MADRID. THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPRESENT REAL PROGRESS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, A CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON THE MEDITERRANEAN TO WHICH "EVERYONE" (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY ALL MEMBERS OF THE CSCE END COMMENT), INCLUDING NON-PARTICIPATING MEDITERRANEAN STATES WILL BE INVITED. THIS CONFERENCE WILL SUCCEED ONLY IF EUROPEANS AND NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES REALLY WANT IT TO. FORTUNATELY, MALTA IS IN A POSITION TO WORK HARD TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL MEETING AS BOTH PARTIES (GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 00664 01 OF 02 221003Z

OPPOSITION) AGREE WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF TRYING TO PROMOTE COOPERATION AMONG MEDITERRANEAN STATES. THE MADRID MEETING IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE WORK WILL BE STARTED ON SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

(C) ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IS POSSIBLE -- THE MEDITERRANEAN STATES COULD "THROW OUT THE SUPERPOWERS BY FORCE". MALTA REJECTED THIS POSSIBILITY HOWEVER BECAUSE IT WOULD DELAY THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE, PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, MUCH LONGER. INSTEAD, IT IS BETTER TO "PUT PRESSURE" ON THE SUPERPOWERS THROUGH SUCH STEPS AS DISCUSSION OF MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY AT THE NEXT CSCE MEETING.

3. DURING THE DEBATE MINTOFF ELABORATED SOMEWHAT ON THE RATIONALE UNDERLYING HIS CONCEPT OF MALTA AS A "BRIDGE" BETWEEN EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA. HE ASSERTED THAT LIBYA AND ALGERIA WERE NOT STAUNCH BELIEVERS IN MAKING "APPROACHES" TO EUROPE AS THEY LOOKED TOWARD AFRICA RATHER THAN TOWARDS EUROPE WHICH THEY SEE AS A GROUP OF "SPINELESS COUNTRIES IN DECLINE, CONTENT TO BE DOMINATED BY THE UNITED STATES." MALTA HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING THEM AS

WELL AS THE EUROPEANS TO COME CLOSER TOGETHER BECAUSE IF THE ARABS AND THE EUROPEANS REMAIN SEPARATE NEITHER WOULD BE ABLE TO BE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF THE TWO SUPER-POWERS. MALTA HAD PICKED OUT LIBYA AND ALGERIA FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION AS THEY WERE THE "HARDLINERS" AMONG THE ARAB STATES. MOROCCO AND TUNISIA ON THE OTHER HAND WERE "COMPLETELY IN AGREEMENT WITH MALTA'S POSITION."

4. IN RESPONSE TO AN OPPOSITION QUESTION CONCERNING MALTA'S ATTITUDE TO CERTAIN MEDITERRANEAN STATES INCREASING THEIR MILITARY STRENGTH, MINTOFF SAID THAT ISRAEL, WHICH RIVALED FRANCE IN THE AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF ITS EQUIPMENT, IS THE MOST HEAVILY ARMED MEDITERRANEAN STATE. THE US SELLS MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL, WHICH INCLUDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 00664 02 OF 02 221006Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 ACDA-12 CU-04 OES-07 AF-10 EB-08
TRSE-00 OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 IO-13 AID-05 /153 W
-----081567 221011Z /11

R 220943Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8060
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 VALLETTA 00664

SOME OF ITS LATEST WEAPONS, BECAUSE THE US IS VITALLY INTERESTED IN ISRAEL AND BECAUSE IT WANTS TO "SAFEGUARD ITS OIL SUPPLIES IN THE PERSIAN GULF," OTHER STATES, LIBYA AND ALGERIA, ARE POORLY ARMED IN COMPARISON AND CAN NEVER REACH A COMPARABLE DEGREE OF MILITARY STRENGTH WITHOUT SOVIET ASSISTANCE. THE USSR DOES NOT, HOWEVER, SUPPLY THESE STATES WITH ITS LATEST WEAPONS.

5. COMMENT: MINTOFF IS OBVIOUSLY CORRECT IN ASSERTING THAT MALTA ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL AT THE CSCE. THIS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED IN THE LOCAL MEDIA, ALTHOUGH THE COST OF MALTA'S TACTICS AMONG OTHER CSCE PARTICIPANTS HAS

BEEN NOTED TOO, EVEN BY THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS. HE IS
ALSO CORRECT IN ASSERTING THAT THE NATIONALISTS SUPPORT
CERTAIN ASPECTS OF HIS MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. HOWEVER, BELIEVE MINTOFF
CAN REACH HIS ULTIMATE
GOAL -- REMOVAL OF THE SUPERPOWERS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN
-- AND ARE CONCERNED THAT HE MAY ONLY ANTAGONIZE THE WEST
EUROPEANS IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 00664 02 OF 02 221006Z

WILSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VALLET00664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780125-1249
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780335/aaaabdgm.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90471fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3232259
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINTOFF'S ASSESSMENT OF CSCE
TAGS: PORG, MT, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/90471fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014